

Region 5 SuperJTI 2001 Nomination
Master Metals, Inc.
Cleveland, Ohio

Nomination #2

Site Name and Location

Master Metals, Inc. is located on West Third Street in the “flats” of Cleveland, a heavily industrialized area. U.S. EPA considers the residential areas, located as close as 1/4 mile from the site, as environmental justice areas.

Site Description and Status

The Master Metals, Inc. site is a four-acre site located in the heart of an industrialized area, near downtown Cleveland. The site, now nearly vacant, was formerly a secondary lead smelter where lead acid batteries and various other materials were melted and made into lead bars. The facility had a long history of violations of various local, state and federal environmental, health, and safety laws; poor operating practices; and releases of hazardous materials to the environment. These violations included repeated employee exposure to airborne lead and gross exceedences of air quality standards off site. Ultimately, the State of Ohio shut the facility down in 1993.

After the treatment and removal of the most highly contaminated soils, U.S. EPA issued a final cleanup decision for the site in 1999. The decision calls for the excavation of contaminated soils, treatment and/or off-site removal of remaining contaminated soils to industrial cleanup standards, followed by the placement of a cap of clean soil and vegetation. Air monitoring will also be necessary as work is conducted. U.S. EPA is currently negotiating with the responsible parties to conduct the work. Once the work gets started, it is expected to last approximately 6 months.

As a result of its location in an industrial, a number redevelopers have expressed interest in redeveloping the site for industrial use. U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA and the City have met with the potential redevelopers in the hopes of modifying the cleanup plan to make future use possible.

Community Needs and History of Training Requests

When U.S. EPA interviewed residents, community leaders, and local government officials in April 1999 to develop the Community Involvement Plan for the Master Metals, Inc. site, unemployment was a common concern expressed by many. The April 1999 Community Involvement Plan states: “According to estimates, approximately 80% of the residents of the Valley View Estates are unemployed. In addition, community leaders mentioned that the lack of jobs has caused a decline in the population of the neighborhood. Due to that fact, an overwhelming concern was also the potential for employment. People interviewed questioned whether or not there would be a potential opportunity for work with regard to the cleanup. Residents also expressed hope that a new owner at the site might also provide jobs to people in the neighborhood.”

In addition, U.S. EPA has identified this area an environmental justice area, with low income or minority two times or greater than the state average.

Contacts

Cleanup Activities at Master Metals
U.S. EPA

Gwendolyn Massenburg, Remedial Project Manager (312) 886-0983
Bri Bill, Remedial Project Manager (312) 353-6646

Ohio EPA

Sheila Abraham, Site Coordinator (330) 963-1290

Local Government

Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CHMA): The county's public housing program. At Valley View Estates, located approximately 1/4 from the site and the industrial flats area, houses approximately 250 families, with approximately 80% of its residents unemployed.

Malinda Matlock, Housing Manager, Valley View Estates, (216) 348-5165

Toxic Sweep Task Force: With representatives from the city, county as well as state and federal government, the task force serves as a focal point for various cleanup activities in the city of Cleveland.

Terrence Ross, Commissioner, Dept. of Community Development, City of Cleveland (216) 664-4009

Carol Smith, Abatement Operations Manager - Lead Program, City of Cleveland (216) 664-2175

Community-Based Organizations That May be of Assistance

Tremont West Development Corporation: A not-for-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the living, business, and cultural conditions for residents of the Tremont neighborhood. Tremont West has participated in a number of meetings between U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA and the City of Cleveland to discuss redevelopment issues related to the Master Metals, Inc. site. Emily Lipovan, Executive Director (216) 575-0920

Merrick House: Provides community services to residents of the Tremont and Clark-Fulton-Denison neighborhoods. Gail Long, Director (216) 771-5077

Flats Oxbow Association: Provides a forum to identify common interests of, and resolve conflicts between, the civic, industrial, retail, entertainment, and residential interests of the "flats."
Jim Pressler (216) 566-1046; www.voiceoftheflats.org

Existing Job Training Program in the Community

Laborers-AGC in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College

Types of Jobs That May be Available and Employment Potential

Jobs in the industrial sector and associated with the many site cleanups under the purview of the City's Toxic Sweeps Task Force.

